

“Tell Them You Are Mad as Hell and Aren’t Going to Take It Any More!”

By Mark E. Charnet
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Today I write to you, April 15, 2009, after dropping my tax returns and the required checks in the mail. However, I unfortunately, didn’t feel very patriotic paying my dues to society this year for some sad reason. Perhaps it has to do with the fact that NJ is Billions of dollars in the **red** and the Federal government is Trillions in the **red**. Thinking back to my US History high school class, I believe it was Patrick Henry who said, “Give me liberty or give me death!” Ben Franklin said, “...but in the world nothing can be said to be certain except death and taxes.” He never thought Congress would tax death I’m sure. “No taxation without representation” was the rallying cry of the colonists, which led to the Boston Tea Party and the resulting revolution against England.

Readers, it’s time once again to fight the government, this time our own. At the Federal level, the massive amounts of pledges and borrowing are poised to destroy economic growth, overburden our great nation with debt for generations and exacerbate the recession, leading us into a **depression**. We must stop the government from giving any more money to failing companies and in fact, take back what was already given. There is no prerequisite for a Presidential candidate to be a historian or an economist. As a result, our leaders have been ill equipped to handle current fiscal problems given the lessons learned in other nations who have undergone similar problems ahead of us, for one, Japan. Instead of electing a lawyer to be our next president, we need an economist or a history professor, one who doesn’t just recite the lessons of history, rather a leader who is keen enough **not** to repeat the same errors.

Our Leaders have to Lead and make decisions and changes that will have a positive impact on our society. One example is to eliminate the IRS and make all taxes voluntary by way of a consumption tax, like a National Sales Tax, (NST). Exempt food, clothing and shelter and tax everything else. This NST would provide for a larger revenue pool, but would also be a fairer form of taxation. Only pay the tax if you buy something. Don’t want to pay the tax? Don’t buy anything! This concept would revolutionize our revenue stream and substantially reduce our individual tax burden. Think about this for a minute: take the total amount of income tax you paid today, add it to the amount you either paid through quarterly estimates or through your payroll deductions then divide that number by 20%. That is the figure you would have had to spend on purchases in 2008 assuming a 20% National Sales Tax. If you never would have purchased that much “stuff” you would be better served by this consumption tax as opposed to an income tax. All of the people who work for cash or under the table in some form or another, illegal or not, would be **forced** to pay their tax at the cash register, where today they pay nothing, anywhere! Tax paying citizens would no longer be subsidizing these people and their grossly unfair economic advantage.

NJ could eliminate the 55% of our property taxes that are going to the schools every year by simply eliminating the local school tax and instituting a sales tax specifically designed for this purpose. Instead of funding our schools exclusively from property owners estimated to be about 2.4 million people, it will transfer the tax to some 48 million people who buy “stuff” in NJ each year! An amazingly simple solution to a debilitating and over burdening tax problem that penalizes **every homeowner**, especially those who don’t have any children in the school system or people who feel it’s unfair to levy school taxes exclusively on home and property owners.

I now urge you to invest the time it takes to write to your elected leaders in Trenton and Washington telling them that you are “**mad as hell and aren’t going to take it any more!**” Tell them you will not tolerate any more tax increases, that cutting expenditures should be the only option for the next 5 years. Attrition, reduction and elimination needs to be the posture of government, replacing spending, borrowing and taxing! Cut out this article from the paper and send it along with your letter of protest. Life and Leisure produces 56,000 papers bi-weekly; imagine, the congressmen of NJ receiving 56,000 letters and articles telling them that their constituents are mad **as hell**, emphasizing the solution of eliminating both the federal income tax system and school based property taxes as the solution to their budgetary problems with a NST system that is fair to all, rich and poor alike.

If this were to happen, Congress would be forced to take notice and take appropriate action to meet the will of “WE THE PEOPLE”. The People have spoken.

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